

Dogwood Project**Paper of Record: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette****Run Date: May 31, 2020****Legal: 30 Day Notice and Comment Period****Opportunity to Comment on Dogwood Ecological Management Unit**

The Ouachita National Forest, Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District, is preparing an environmental assessment for the Dogwood Ecological Management Unit. Dogwood is in Scott County, Arkansas. Highway 28 travels east/west just north of the project areas. Highway 248 cuts through the middle east/west. Dogwood project area is south of the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Area and west of Waldron, Arkansas. It is northeast of Lake Hinkle Recreation Area. The communities of Cauthron and Hon are located on Highway 28 north of Dogwood.

Legal description is Township 3 North, Range 30 West, Sections 16-21, 29-32; Township 3 North, Range 31 West, Sections 13-25, 22-27, 35 and 36; Township 2 North, Range 31 West, Sections 1-2; and Township 2 North, Range 30 West, Sections 4-9 and 16.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The proposed project or activity is available on-line at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=56775>. The EA and supporting documentation are also available for review at the Cold Springs Ranger District office in Booneville, Arkansas. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained from: Donna Reagan, PO Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927, (479) 675-4743 ext. 107, donna.reagan@usda.gov.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6). For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.

Written comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, PO Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927 or fax to (479) 675-3232. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to SM.FS.r8oucsprdc@usda.gov. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8).

Please state "Dogwood" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail.